

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 COA-02 INT-08 EB-11 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 CG-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4665

UNCLAS TOKYO 7685

PASS NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/ NAKATSU

S/ FW- COA

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EFIS, XP, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE HALIBUT REGULATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 103563, (B) TOKYO 1811, (C) TOKYO A-233, (D) STATE
111188.

TANABE (HEAD, TREATIES SUB- SECTION, FIRST OCEAN SECTION, PRODUCTION
DIVISION, FISHERY AGENCY) PROVIDED REGFISHATT WITH FOLLOWING
INFORMATION TO HELP CLARIFY JAPAN HALIBUT REGULATIONS AS REQUESTED
REFTEL (D):

1. ARE JAPANESE HALIBUT OPERATIONS BETWEEN 180 AND 173 E COVERED BY
DOMESTIC REGULATIONS? FISHING VESSELS NORMALLY TAKING HALIBUT THIS
AREA (I. E. TRAWL, LONGLINE AND GILLNET) ARE CLASSIFIED AS DESIGNATED
FISHERIES, LICENSED BY AND UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF FISHERY AGENCY.
ONLY HALIBUT REGULATION IN FORCE AT PRESENT ESTABLISHES MINIMUM
SIZE LIMIT.

2. (A) WHAT ARE SPECIFIC AREAS COVERED BY BAN AND THOSE COVERED
BY SIZE AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS? FISHERY AGENCY HAS PROVIDED MAP TO
CLARIFY VARIOUS CLOSED AREAS, SEASONS, GEAR, ETC. (COPY POUCHED).
IN ADDITION, SIXE RESTRICTION APPLIES ALL AREAS.

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(B) HALIBUT FISHING OKHOTSK SEA NOT COVERED BY DOMESTIC REGULATION? MOTHERSHIP TRAWL FISHERY AND LAND- BASED HOKUTENSEN AND OFFSHORE TRAWL FISHERY (15 TO 125 GROSS TONS) ARE LICENSED BY AND UNDER REGULATION OF FISHERY AGENCY. COD LONGLINE VESSELS AND SMALL COASTAL TRAWLERS (UNDER 15 TONS), BOTH OF WHICH MAY TAKE SOME HALIBUT, ARE LICENSED BY AND UNDER REGULATION OF HOKKAIDO GOVERNMENT. ONLY DOMESTIC HALIBUT REGULATION APPLICABLE OKHOTSK SEA ESTABLISHES MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT.

3. (A) HALIBUT SIZE RESTRICTION APPLICABLE WORLDWIDE? THEORETICALLY YES BUT IN PRACTICE, ONLY AREA OF CONCERN IS NORTH PACIFIC (INCLUDING BERING SEA/ OKHOTSK SEA).

(B) PROHIBITED SPECIES IN SPECIFIED AREAS? FISHERY AGENCY CONFIRMS OUTRIGHT PROHIBITION.

(C) OPERATION LAND BASED TRAWLERS COVERED BY REGULATIONS? YES.

4. OPERATION LAND BASED TRAWLS COVERED UNDER HIGH SEAS GROUND FISH FISHERIES? LAND BASED TRAWLERS INCLUDED IN GROUND FISH FISHERIES: DEFINITION M. O. NO. 5 APPLICABLE M. N. 656. NOTE, HOWEVER, LAND- BASED TRAWLERS ONLY ALLOWED TO OPERATE WEST OF 175 W.

5. EXPANDED CONTROL OVER TRAWLING FOR HALIBUT IN 5 DEGREE CORRIDOR 180 TO 175 W? FISHERY AGENCY CONFIRMS EXPANSION AS DESCRIBED M. N. 656 6(2).
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO07685
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730623/aaaajfut.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 103563, 73 TOKYO 1811, 73 TOKYO A-233, 73 STATE, 111188
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980213
Subject: JAPANESE HALIBUT REGULATIONS
TAGS: EFIS, JA, XP
To: COME
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005